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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Belgium
SUBJECT Xavier Relecom

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1. Xavier Gustave Emile Relecom, Belgian, an expert accountant, was born at Antwerp on 6 June 1900. Subject's wife is Georgette Marie nee Fishback, who was born at Molenbeek-St-Jean on 25 December 1906. Subject is presently living at 3 rue du Grand Hospice.
2. Relecom has been an active member of the Belgian Communist Party since 1930. Early in his career he became Secretary of the Brussels Section. During this period subject belonged to the Jacquemotte Brigade and was active in the Secours Rouge Internationale, especially during the Spanish Civil War. In 1936 he was elected Deputy for Brussels and member of the Brussels Communal Council. At this time subject was also a member of the National Committee of the BCP, as well as National Secretary.
3. In 1943 Relecom was arrested by the Gestapo and sent to the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen. He was transferred to the camp at Cranienbourg where he was liberated by the Red Army. Subject returned to Brussels in June 1945 after a trip to the USSR. Following his return, he was accused by the Party of improper conduct in the concentration camp. Relecom, who was opposed to the Party order to save the Communist cadres at all costs, did not differentiate in treatment between Communists and non-Communists. He received a strict warning and was informed that he could hold neither a responsible position within the Party nor a public office. Early in August 1945 subject resigned, stating that he had not maintained a strong enough stand with the Gestapo.
4. Xavier Relecom remained in contact with BCP leaders after his resignation. On 18 April 1946 he was appointed director of the CP-owned Deux Lignes bookshop on rue de la Paix, Brussels. At this time he also managed a similar bookshop on the rue du Grand Hospice and the Amities Belgo-Soviétiques bookshop on boulevard du Regent. Toward the end of 1946 Relecom was reinstated in the Central Committee of the BCP. Early in 1947 he became a member of the Administrative Council of the Drapeau Rouge. At the Second National Congress of the Amis du Drapeau Rouge, held on 1 June 1947 in Brussels, subject was nominated for the National Committee. He was also the administrator of the Nouvelle Société Belge d'Impression, a Communist publishing firm in which he holds 27,400 shares out of 30,000 at one hundred francs a share.

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5. On 5 October 1947 subject, who had been gradually resuming his functions within the core of the Central Committee, was elected Political Secretary at the Charleroi Federation Congress. During October 1947 he was replaced by Jacques Grippe, who also took over the administration of the Drapeau Rouge. In April 1948 subject became Political Secretary of the Brussels Federation. During this period he was Director and Secretary of the ATO (Association of Workers Travel), a communist-formed organization believed linked to the French CP's Tourisme et Travail. *

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